



**Executive Office of the Mayor
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Local Groups will meet with Mayor to
Discuss Ending Veterans Homelessness**

Reading, PA – February 23, 2015 – Wednesday, February 25, 2015, Mayor Spencer will join First Lady Michele Obama in committing to end veteran homelessness in the City of Reading. With today's announcement of the Mayors Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness, Reading joins a growing number of communities across the country making the commitment.

In Council Chambers, from 10:00 – 12:30, Mayor Spencer will be hosting a panel that include representatives from the Berks Coalition to End Homelessness, Berks County Department of Veterans Affairs, the Lebanon VA Medical Center, Supportive Services for Veterans Families Program, Veterans Making a Difference, and Veteran Supportive and Permanent Housing. Other guests include representatives from state legislators.

"Veteran homelessness is not an intractable social problem that can't be solved," said Mayor Spencer. "By focusing our resources and renewing our communities' commitment to this issue, we can end veteran homelessness in our city and our country. I'm proud to join Mayors across the country as we work toward the important goal of honoring the service of our veterans by making sure all of them have a home to call their own."

Reading will be exploring how to work with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH), and the National League of Cities to leverage federal resources and develop a local strategy to make sure every veteran in the community has access to stable housing and the supportive services they need to stay off the street.

To learn more about the Mayor's Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness, visit
http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/comm_planning/veteran_information/mayors_challenge

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